

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IO-03 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00

RSC-01 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 SP-02 SAJ-01 PM-03 L-02

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7472

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO ALL NATO CPITALS PRIORITY 4372

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NY PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

USDOCOSOUTH PRIORITY

S E C R E T USNATO 4875

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CY, GR, TU, NATO

SUBJECT: CYPRUS: INFORMAL MEETING OF THE THIRTEEN ON THE KARAMANLIS
LETTER

REFS: (A) USNATO 4844; (B) USNATO 4845; (C) STATE 198059

1. AS REPORTED IN REFS A AND B, SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS CONVENED AN
INFORMAL MEETING OF THE THIRTEEN PERMREPS (MINUS GREECE AND TURKEY)
AT 4:00 P.M. SEPTEMBER 10 TO DISCUSS A RESPONSE TO THE KARAMANLIS
LETTER. LUNS SAID THAT ALTHOUGH IT WAS UP TO EACH GOVERNMENT TO
RESPOND INDIVIDUALLY, HE THOUGHT IT USEFUL TO HAVE A DISCUSSION
SO THAT THE VIEWS OF PERMREPS COULD BE EXCHANGED.

2. HE CALLED INITIALLY ON U.K. AMBASSADOR PECK WHO ESSENTIALLY
REPEATED POINTS IN BRITISH TEXT PROVIDED IN REF A.

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3. IN GENERAL, MOST PERMREPS FAVORED BRITISH APPROACH, IN
ESSENCE A LOW-KEY REPLY OF AN UNPROVOCATIVE NATURE. DE STAERCKE
(BELGIUM) DESCRIBED THE INFORMAL MEETING OF THE THIRTEEN AS A
WAY TO DEVELOP A BASKET OF IDEAS FROM WHICH VARIOUS ALLIES

COULD DRAW IN THEIR RESPONSES. HE STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE OUTLINE PROVIDED BY AMBASSADOR PECK. HARTOGH (NETHERLANDS), BUSCH (NORWAY), MENZIES (CANADA), SVART (DENMARK) AND BOSS (GERMANY) ENDORSED THE GENERAL BRITISH APPROACH. ALL INDICATED THEIR GOVERNMENTS FELT THAT A REPLY TO THE KARAMANLIS LETTER WAS REQUIRED. DE STAERCKE WAS PARTICULARLY EMPHATIC ABOUT THE OBLIGATION TO RESPOND.

4. RUMSFELD, DRAWING ON REF C, SAID WASHINGTON QUESTIONED WHETHER A WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE KARAMANLIS LETTER WAS REQUIRED AT THIS TIME,

BUT THAT IN ANY EVENT WASHINGTON WAS INTERESTED IN HAVING THE VIEWS OF THE OTHER ALLIES. RUMSFELD SAID THAT IF WASHINGTON DECIDED TO REPLY, HE PERSONALLY FELT THAT IT COULD BE MUCH ALONG THE LINES ADVOCATED BY THE ALLIES. IF AND WHEN A RESPONSE IS MADE, IT COULD BE SHORT AND UNPROVOCATIVE, ESSENTIALLY INDICATING THAT THE LETTER HAD BEEN RECEIVED, THAT THE SUBJECT WAS IMPORTANT, AND THAT WE WISHED TO CONSULT WITH OUR ALLIES ON ITS IMPLICATIONS. RUMSFELD EMPHASIZED THE U.S., WHILE QUESTIONING THE NEED FOR A WRITTEN REPLY NOW, WAS NOT ADVOCATING THAT NO RESPONSE WHATSOEVER BE MADE.

5. CATALANO (ITALY) NOTED THE PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE OF THE GREEK MATTER TO ITALY BECAUSE OF ITALY'S GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION. IN ADDITION TO SUPPORTING A RESPONSE TO THE KARAMANLIS LETTER, HE FELT IT WAS NECESSARY TO CONDUCT STUDIES WITHIN THE ALLIANCE TO EXAMINE THE IMPLICATIONS OF A GREEK WITHDRAWAL AND ALSO TO DETERMINE WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE TO CLOSE THE SECURITY GAP WHICH WOULD BE CREATED BY GREECE'S WITHDRAWAL. LUNS INDICATED THAT A STUDY OF THIS MATTER WAS UNDER WAY. HE PRESUMABLY HAD IN MIND THE WORK BEING DONE BY THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF.

6. AMBASSADOR DE ROSE (FRANCE) APPRECIATED BEING INVITED TO THE MEETING AND WAS THERE BECAUSE FRANCE HAD ALSO RECEIVED THE KARAMANLIS LETTER AND THEY WERE INTERESTED IN HEARING THE VIEWS OF THE OTHER ALLIES. HOWEVER, THEY WERE, FOR OBVIOUS REASONS, IN SECRET

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NO POSITION TO GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON HOW THE FRENCH WOULD REPLY TO THE LETTER OR TO SUGGEST TO OTHER ALLIES HOW THEY SHOULD REPLY.

7. THE SECRETARY GENERAL INDICATED HE WOULD BE MEETING WITH GREEK FOREIGN MINISTER MAVROS AT 6:00 P.M. TOMORROW (SEPTEMBER 11). HE WOULD SEE HIM AGAIN AT A DINNER THE FOLLOWING DAY ALONG WITH AMBASSADOR DE STAERCKE. LUNS ADID HE INTENDS TO DISPEL ANY IMPRESSIONS MAVROS MAY HAVE THAT NATO FAILED TO CALL A FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING BASED UPON A GREEK REQUEST. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE WOULD EMPHASIZE TO MAVROS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF GREECE HAD SIGNED A CONTRACT WHEN IT JOINED THE ALLIANCE AND THAT IT COULD NOT UNILATERALLY DECIDE UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS IT WOULD WITHDRAW. LUNS WILL ALSO EMPHASIZE TO HIM THE IMPLICATIONS OF ARTICLE 5 OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY, INDICATING THAT ONCE GREECE WITHDRAWS

FROM THE MILITARY SIDE OF NATO, MILITARY ASSISTANCE WOULD NOT BE
AUTOMATIC.

8. COMMENT: IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE OTHER ALLIES INTEND TO
RESPOND IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO THE KARAMANLIS LETTER ALONG THE
LINES SUGGESTED BY THE BRISIH. MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT IN
LIGHT OF THESE ALLIED INTENTIONS WASHINGTON GIVE EARLY CONSIDERATION
TO THE POSITION IT WISHES TO ADOPT CONCERNING A RESPONSE
TO THE KARAMANLIS LETTER. U.S. FAILURE TO RESPOND TO THE LETTER
WHILE ALL OF OUR OTHER ALLIES DO SO MIGHT BE MISINTERPRETED AND
COULD BE PREJUDICIAL TO IMPROVING OUR RELATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT
OF GREECE.
RUMSFELD

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